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REMARKSClaim Amendments

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2, 5-11, 14-17, 20, and 21 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 18.

Claims 23, 26, and 38 have been amended to incorporate the plasticizer limitation of allowed claim 18.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 14-17, 20, 21, 23-28, 33-35, 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Clough (U.S. Patent No. 6,518,362) in view of Mizuno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,017,663). Although Applicants continue to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's opinion that U.S. Patent No. 6,518,362 to Clough and U.S. Patent No. 5,017,663 to Mizuno are analogous art, Applicants have decided to amend their claims in order that allowed and allowable claims may issue without further delay.

Claims 12, 13, 18, 19, and 22 are presently allowed.

Claims 2-11, 14-17, 20 and 21 are now allowable as depending ultimately from and further limiting allowed claim 18. Claims 23, 26, and 38 have been amended to include or further limit all the compositional limitations of allowed claim 18. Since claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 33-35, and 39 each include or further limit the compositional limitations of claims 23, 26, and 38, Claims 23-28, 33-35, 38 and 39 should now be allowable.

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It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862 maintained by Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

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